Creation Matters

Volume 27 Number 3
Summer 2022

A publication of the
Creation Research Society

CRS: Advancing the Progress of Creation Science

by Jean K. Lightner, D.V.M., M.S., Vice-president of the CRS board

The Creation Research Society (CRS) exists to encourage and publish original creation research that sheds light on the world around us from a biblical perspective. In this way, we bring glory to our awesome God as He becomes more clearly revealed as Creator, Sustainer, and Righteous Judge. We also gain a more realistic understanding of the created world, enabling us to make better decisions as we steward it. At the most recent Creation Research Society (CRS) board of directors meeting, we outlined a bold new plan to propel creation science forward.

Creation Science

Science involves the systematic study of the natural world around us by employing observation and experimentation. Individual pieces of data are collected that can potentially help us better understand the world around us. However, the data never speaks for itself, it must be interpreted. The framework for interpreting it is called a paradigm.

Scientific paradigms can change. Sometimes the shift is based on observations that allow for the development of a new paradigm that fits the observed evidence better (e.g., models of atomic theory). Other times the shift may occur for more philosophical reasons. Such is the case with the naturalistic evolutionary paradigm that starts with the assumption that there is no creator and then requires all evidence to be interpreted within these constraints.

In contrast, creation science works within different parameters, namely, those we are given in the Bible. God's Word provides us with a logical foundation for even studying science since it tells us humans were created to rule over God's creation (Genesis 1:26-27). Naturally, understanding creation is essential for us to do this well. Further, the Bible tells us to test everything and hold on to what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). This is essential for the effective systematic study of the created world.

The more closely a paradigm fits reality, the more effective it is in aiding scientific investigation and making scientific predictions. When it comes to topics of origins, the historical narrative used to guide interpretation makes a profound difference.

Historical Narratives

The naturalistic evolutionary narrative assumes God does not exist (or, at least, was not involved in a way we could detect). Instead, it assumes the processes

continued on page 3

Math Matters

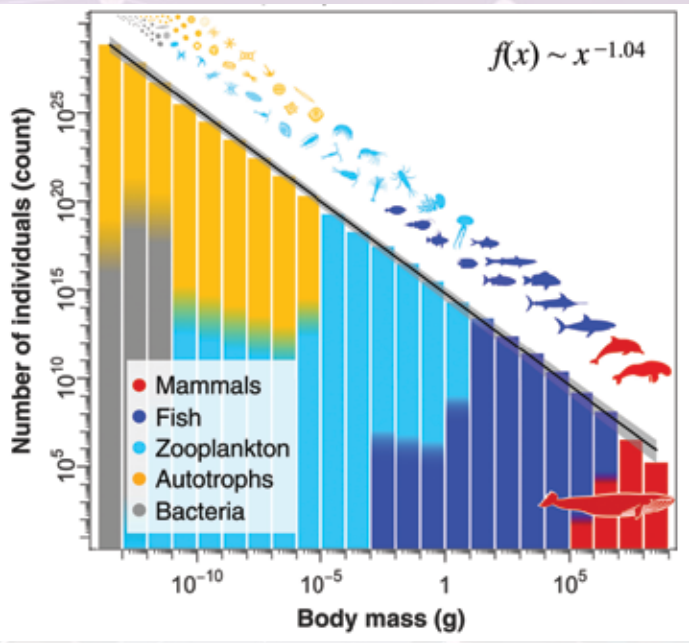
The Sheldon Spectrum

by Don DeYoung, PhD

During a global survey of sea life, Canadian marine ecologist Raymond Sheldon noticed a surprising mathematical pattern (Sheldon et al., 1972): The size of an organism is directly related to its worldwide abundance.

For example, small crustaceans called krill are roughly a billion times smaller than tuna, and the krill are also a billion times more abundant than the large fish. The figure shows the inverse size-population correlation which exists over many orders of magnitude, called the Sheldon spectrum (Hatton et al., 2021). The included organisms range from bacteria on the left side of the figure to the endangered blue whales on the right, numbering only in the tens of thousands. Both axes of the figure are logarithmic. The downward slope has the form $y = x^{-1.04}$, giving a nearly perfect inverse relationship between organism size and population.

It's easy to see this general ratio continues onto land, where small varieties of life far outnumber large creatures. This follows from the thermodynamic loss of available food energy as one moves up the pyramidal food chain. There does not appear to be a published comprehensive correlation of land creatures similar to the Sheldon spectrum for marine life, which makes it—and extending the study to freshwater life—a potential research project.



The log-log graph shows the inverse nature of marine organism size and population (Hatton et al., 2021)

Some scientists have suggested that the Sheldon distribution of aquatic life is a fundamental law of nature (Koumoundouros, 2021). They also fear that mankind has disturbed this natural distribution by overfishing the larger fish populations. If true, there are unknown implications to this resulting imbalance of ocean life.

Taken in another direction, the Sheldon spectrum may provide insight on the Creation Week. On Day Five when

continued on page 4

Contents

CRS: Advancing the Progress of Creation Science . . 1

Math Matters: The Sheldon Spectrum 2

Geology Matters: The Ice Age: Powerful Evidence for the Flood. 5

Prayer Matters 8

Creation Matters

ISSN 1094-6632
Volume 27, Number 3, Summer 2022

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Editor: Jean K. Lightner
Assistant Editor: Cheri Fields
Layout Services: Guy Forsythe, guyf@cryingrocks.com

Creation Matters is a publication of
Creation Research Society, 1 W. Firestorm Way #145,
Glendale, AZ 85306, www.creationresearch.org

Article submissions and inquiries for *Creation Matters* can be addressed to CMeditor@creationresearch.org

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CRS: Creation Science

continued from page 1

we see today are the only ones that have ever occurred and at essentially the same rates. While evolutionists must invoke processes we do not observe (e.g., in the Big Bang model), appeals to such processes are avoided if possible. According to this system of thought, the variety of living things we observe today evolved through universal common descent by naturalistic processes over a very long time. This narrative is often told in a compelling way with great certitude. Yet, this account of the origin of the universe and life on earth was not observed by anyone. It is a just a contrived story.

The biblical narrative of our origins, presented primarily in Genesis 1–11, is different. The Bible recognizes the existence of God and presents a supernatural origin of the universe and life. It tells of a global flood, a one-of-a-kind event that shaped our world in profound ways that affect interpretations in geology, biology, and paleontology. The Bible provides the basis for recognizing that the world is being upheld in regular ways (Psalm 147:7–11; Jeremiah 5:24; Matthew 5:45; Colossians 1:16-17), which makes the study of science possible. In contrast, a naturalistic view assumes this with no logical basis for why natural laws and cycles exist. Further, the Bible's account of history is written based on eyewitness events. God himself was witness to his creative activity establishing the universe and earth, and he directly inspired the writing of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16). Thus, given that the Bible is true in its claims, it provides a robust foundation for scientific predictions and discovery.

Just in recent years, assuming a biblical creationist model has led to a growing number of predictions that have been verified. This includes predictions regarding magnetic fields of planets and helium diffusion rates made by creation physicist Dr. Russ Humphreys (Sarfati, 2021). Also, a prediction of the CRS eKINDS (examination of kinds in natural diversification and speciation) project was that mutations in eukaryotes must be biased to be adaptive; this has now been confirmed in a plant species (reviewed in Lightner, 2022).

We want to see this trend of scientific growth continue. Therefore, CRS is strengthening our position and making audacious goals to move creation science forward.

Funding Research through Grants

Thanks to many faithful donors over the decades, CRS has funded research through our research grants. The results are published in the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* (*CRSQ*). These grants tend to be small, normally less than $5000, and our budget has been $10,000 per year. What we have accomplished has been good, but we can do better. We rewrote the Research Grants page (under the Research tab on the CRS website) to clarify the type of research we fund, and the process involved in obtaining a grant. We desire to see a significant increase in research by established researchers, students, and others as we work together to further build the creation model.

It's not enough to settle for vague goals. So, we have proposed increasing our research budget to $25,000 a year and plan to promote our grants more heavily. We hope that the excitement will be contagious as more CRS members and friends get involved and encourage others to do so. We are looking for more researchers who need the funds, and more donors to fund the endowments used to pay them. We also need faithful intercessors as we endeavor to keep our focus on honoring God through high quality research that brings glory to Him. Ultimately, in the next decade, we hope to move far beyond this and become the NSF of creation research, awarding more grants for larger sums of money.

Support for Researchers

CRS already offers different venues for developing budding researchers. Each year we hold a conference where members can submit abstracts and present "works in progress." Expanding our ability to provide grants will make this opportunity even better. For those who do research with a CRS grant, funds can be requested to cover travel to this conference to present research. This is a tremendous opportunity for students and others who often have limited funds. Besides directly encouraging research, these conferences have proven to be an effective means of networking with others on creation related topics.

CRSnet has also been an effective tool to encourage networking. This email distribution list allows CRS members to ask questions and discuss creation related topics with others, including some of the best creation scientists in the field. It is a good place for newer researchers to get connected and develop relationships that can help move them forward so they can be more involved in the exciting process of advancing creation research.

CRS Research Projects

Many people know that CRS has its own projects: iDino and eKINDS. The iDino research was investigating tissue decay rates when we lost our lab director, Dr. Kevin Anderson, earlier this year. While data is still being collected, we currently lack someone who can take the data and publish a quality article. We are praying for God to raise someone up to do this, and also for someone who can take over the position of CRS lab director.

The eKINDS project continues to move forward, having produced eight papers in the six years since its inception. So far three different researchers have been involved in this project, but there is room for more. This project focuses on three

continued on page 4

The Sheldon Spectrum

continued from page 2

fish and birds first appeared, God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures" (Genesis 1:20). If the observed distribution of sea life is constant through history, the Sheldon finding may give the relative numbers of small and large sea life that originally filled the water world at God's command.

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CRS: Creation Science

continued from page 3

important biological questions: 1) Which organisms today are descended from the same created kind? 2) What mechanisms are responsible for the astounding diversity seen within created kinds? and 3) Can we trace the natural history of various animal kinds as they dispersed from the Ark to repopulate the earth? For more details, check out the eKINDS page at www.creationresearch.org (under the Research tab, select Projects). If you want to discuss possibly becoming involved, contact the office and they will put you in touch with me, Jean Lightner.

A Bright Future

The book of Proverbs speaks of a future for those who fear the LORD (e.g., Proverbs 1; 23:17-18). God has already positioned CRS to be involved in supporting, conducting, and publishing creation research. We as the CRS board have been seeking the LORD, and are working to faithfully expand this work. Would you be interested in joining us in prayer, research, or donating funds?

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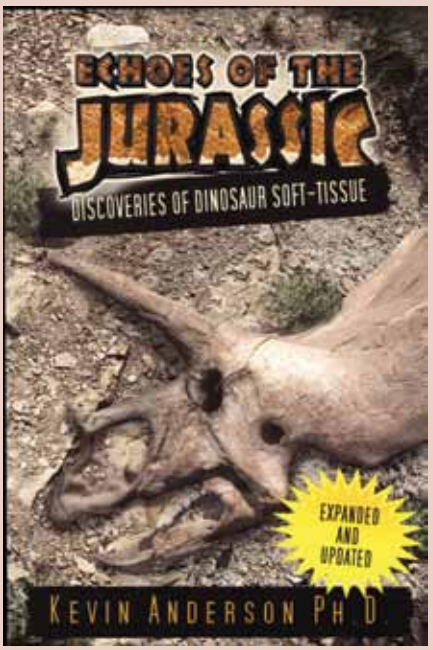
Sarfati, J. 2021. Physicist staunchly defends biblical creation: Jonathan Sarfati chats with Dr Russell Humphreys. *Creation* 43(1):44-47.

Available in the CRS bookstore

Echoes of the Jurassic (Updated and Expanded)

By Kevin Anderson

Are you up to date on the latest details from the iDino research? In this updated version of Dr. Anderson's popular book, he discusses the evidence that shows the tissue is authentic and examines the arguments that attempt to explain how tissue and proteins could be preserved for millions of years. 2017. 96 pages.



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Research is our middle name

The Ice Age: Powerful Evidence for the Reality of the Genesis Flood

Michael J. Oard

Many creation scientists have come to accept that Noah's Flood caused the Ice Age. The Flood was typified by tremendous volcanism, during and after the Flood, accompanied by meteorite impacts. This combination jumpstarted the Ice Age in favorable areas immediately after the Flood (Oard, 2004; 2013; in press). Aerosols (sulfuric acid particles about a micron in diameter) expelled during volcanism caused cooler summers by reflecting some of the incoming sunlight back into space. This cooling would be enhanced by cooling from a snow cover and the high reflectivity (albedo) of the surface caused by light-colored volcanic ash (Jones et al., 2007). Volcanic aerosols would remain in the stratosphere for several years depending upon the injection height of the volcanism, the latitude, and the season (Toohey et al., 2019). The volcanic cooling can last over 10 years from a super-eruption like Toba in Sumatra (Timmreck et al., 2012). Evaporation from the warm oceans would add a vast amount of moisture to the atmosphere. In the mid- and high-latitudes, the moisture would be caught up in storms rapidly dumping snow on the nearby land. Areas favorable for ice buildup would be those far from warm onshore flow like central Canada. High mountains of the world would also receive heavy snow. From these seed areas, ice sheets, glaciers, and ice caps would mushroom out, not necessarily by glacier movement but by increasing snow cover. The length of the Ice Age is arrived at by determining how long it would take for the warm post-Flood ocean to cool to its present temperature. By doing the calculations we conclude from start to finish it would take 700 years (Oard, 2004; 2013, in press).

Uniformitarian Ice Ages Are Very Cold

Uniformitarian scientists believe in five major ice age periods in earth history, starting about 2.4 billion years ago (Table 1). Of these, the four pre-Pleistocene ice ages ("ancient ice ages") can be explained by gigantic submarine slides during the Flood (Oard, 1997). During their last major ice age period, the Pleistocene, uniformitarian scientists now believe there were 50 individual ice ages in "regular succession" and of various intensities, based on cycles in solar radiation according to the astronomical or Milankovitch theory (Walker and Lower, 2007). Each ice age is assumed to be very cold, based on climate model runs. Multiple ice ages are based on deep-sea cores and *assume* the astronomical theory is true, yet evidence on land and Greenland ice cores indicate just one ice age. As such, it is their last ice age that corresponds to the biblical Ice Age.

Unique Characteristic of The Ice Age

Many aspects of the Ice Age reveal that it was a unique one-of-a-kind event. This defies the presumptions of uniformitarian scientists and strongly suggests that the uniformitarian ice age model is untrue. One telling aspect is that the lowlands of Siberia, Alaska, and the northwest Yukon Territory were never glaciated in the supposed 50 uniformitarian ice ages. This is unexpected, especially when uniformitarian scientists run their climate models. After much tweaking, the models do eventually produce glaciation but often the lowlands are also glaciated, for instance in Phillipps and Held (1994).

Another unique, well documented feature is that arid to semi-arid regions today were once well watered during their last ice age. Numerous lakes, some large and deep, occurred during the Ice Age in the semi-arid southwest United States. The Sahara Desert was also well watered.

A third aspect, especially contrary to a uniformitarian ice age, is that Ice Age environments were characterized by organisms that preferred warmth living alongside those that preferred a cool climate. These are called disharmonious associations and are not rare but the rule:

> Late Pleistocene [last ice age] communities were *characterized* by the coexistence of species that today are allopatric [not climatically associated] and presumably ecologically incompatible. … Disharmonious associations have been documented

continued on page 6

Geological Period	Secular Approximate Age Range
Pleistocene	11,700 to 2.6 million years ago
Late Palaeozoic	256 to 338 million years ago
Late Ordovician	429 to 445 million years ago
Late Precambrian	520 to 950 million years ago
Mid Precambrian	2.2 to 2.4 billion years ago

Table 1. The five main ice age periods within the uniformitarian paradigm and their inferred age range.

Ice Age

continued from page 5

> for late Pleistocene floras … terrestrial invertebrates … lower vertebrates, birds, and mammals (Graham and Lundelius, 1984, p. 224).

Probably the most outrageous example of a disharmonious association is finding hippopotamus fossils in association with reindeer, musk oxen, and woolly mammoths at hundreds of locations in northwest Europe during the Ice Age (Nilsson, 1983; Sutcliffe, 1985). Hippos being intolerant of the cold (Stuart, 2015), it is mind bending that in England they are found together in over 100 locations.

What does this association of hippos and other warmth loving animals alongside cold tolerant animals mean? Grayson (1984, p. 18) tells us:

> If the musk ox required cold, and the hippopotamus required warmth, and the stratigraphic evidence implied that they had coexisted, then a straightforward reading of all this information could imply that glacial climates had not, as most felt, been marked by severe winters, but had instead been equable.

The evidence points to a *mild equable climate*, one that had little seasonal contrast. Winters were comparatively mild and summers cooler (Figure 1).

This mild climate prevailed even in Siberia and Alaska, where millions of woolly mammoths lived and were associated with about 40 other mammals, some of which preferred warmer climates without permafrost. This contrasts strongly with the uniformitarian notion of a cold ice age.

A fourth aspect is that about 2/3rds of all mammals over 42 kg (100 lb), as well as large birds, went extinct at the end of their last ice age. This is supposed to be a time when environmental conditions were improving according to the secular model. The world was supposedly transitioning from very cold to warmer temperatures and deglaciation was opening up more space for food.

The Post-Flood Rapid Ice Age Can Explain the Unique Features

All these unique features defy uniformitarianism but can be explained by the post-Flood rapid Ice Age. The lack of ice sheets in the lowlands of the far north can be explained by the warm Arctic, North Pacific, and North Atlantic Oceans. Warm, onshore flow would keep the lowlands ice-free with heavy snow in the mountains.

The warmer oceans would not only cause heavy snow to accumulate in areas covered by ice during the Ice Age, but also there would be heavy rain in numerous non-glaciated areas, resulting in "wet deserts" all around the earth (Figure 2).

Cooler summers and mild winters with little seasonal contrast would occur early in the Ice Age (Figure 1). Mild winters would be a result of the warm ocean water warming the air and latent heat given off by the condensation of water vapor at mid- and high-latitudes. As a result of this unique climate, disharmonious associations would be predicted. Mammals could easily have migrated up into Siberia and spread into Alaska over a land bridge down into the southern United States through an ice-free corridor along the east slopes of the Rocky Mountains of Canada and Montana, USA (Oard, 2020). From there, some animals would be free to migrate as far as South America.

The extinctions after the last uniformitarian ice age can be explained by only one Ice Age. A mild equable climate with plenty of rain would cause

continued on page 7

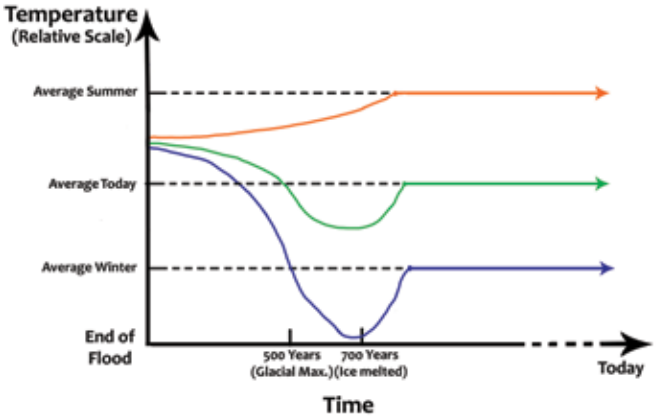

Figure 1. The postulated average winter (blue), summer (red), and annual temperature (green) with time for the Northern Hemisphere mid- and high-latitude continents from the end of the Flood through the Ice Age to today (drawn by Mrs. Melanie Richard).

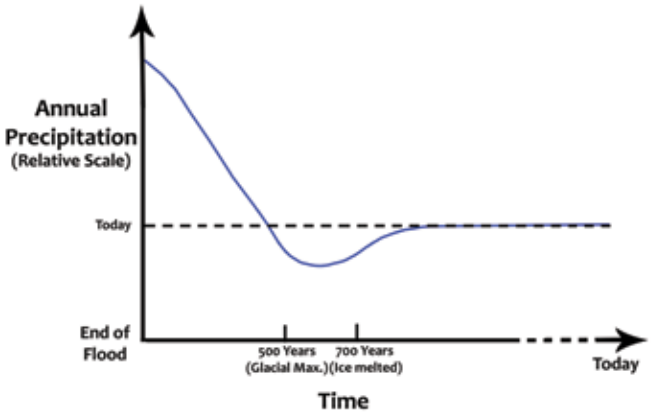

Figure 2. The postulated annual mid- and high-latitude Northern Hemisphere precipitation with time from the end of the Flood through the Ice Age to today (drawn by Mrs. Melanie Richard).

Ice Age

continued from page 6

the populations of animal and plants to explode early in the Ice Age. Instead of warming at the end of the Ice Age as in the secular model, the post-Flood Ice Age would end with much harsher winters and warmer summers. Summers would cause catastrophic melting and the much colder winters would be drier and windy with frequent droughts and even wildfires. The Ice Age was dynamic as shown in Figures 1 and 2. Such deglaciation changes would have stressed the animals, especially the larger ones that needed more food, resulting in a mass extinction.

Evidence for The Flood

All these unique features of the Ice Age defy uniformitarianism while providing powerful *evidence* for the reality of Noah's Flood. And since Noah's Flood is true, it is easy to believe the whole Bible is true. CM

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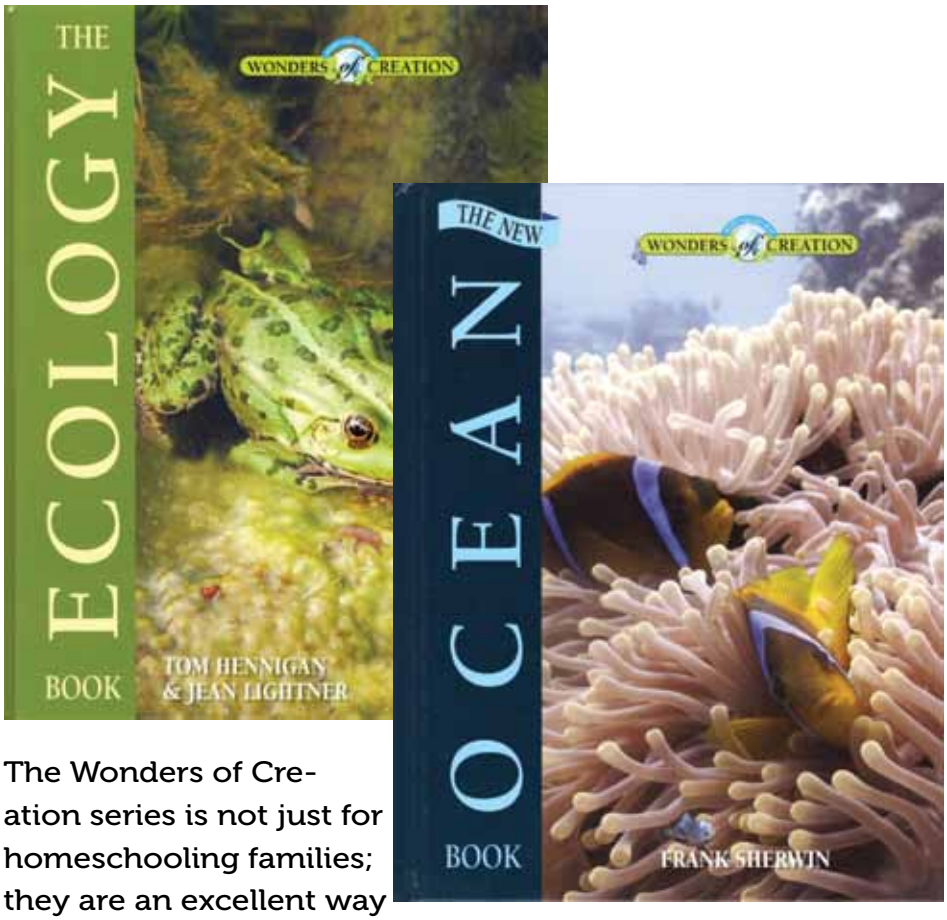

The Wonders of Creation series is not just for homeschooling families; they are an excellent way to develop a biblical worldview on a variety of important topics. *The Ecology Book* and *The Ocean Book* cover important topics for scientifically interested Christians to understand that are not as well covered in other creation books. Build your faith and your understanding of science with these well-illustrated, readable books.

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Prayer Matters

Praise: We thank God for all your prayers and support!

Prayer: Please pray for God to continue to guide CRS as we seek to be more effective in supporting, conducting, and publishing original creation research. We need for CRS grants to be well promoted and funded, a new lab director who can effectively teach and oversee the lab, and someone who can write up the iDino research that Dr. Anderson was overseeing when he died.

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